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AD391345	
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BY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M)(28 June 68) FOR OT RD 682043

5 July 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th
Battalion, 9th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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as

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 - 336th Ordnance Battalion (Ammo)
 - 2d Battalion, 138th Artillery
 - 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 7TH BATTALION, 9TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96370

AVGAM-C

30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer
54th Artillery Group
ATTN: AVGAM-C
APO 96376

Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVFB-FAC
APO 96266

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-DH
APO 96375

Commander in Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

FOR OT RD
682043

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30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL AND UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (C) Personnel and Administration

a. The 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery remains assigned to the 54th Artillery Group, APO 96376, with the mission of General Support Reinforcing to the 9th Infantry Division Artillery.

b. Base camp location of batteries is grid YS 166999 (Bearcat).

c. Command changes:

(1) On 1 April 1968, Samuel A. Blank Jr., CPT, ARTY, OF101335, assumed command of Battery C, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery from Gary J. Walk, CPT, ARTY, OF101762.

(2) On 17 April 1968, Wallace W. Noll, LTC, ARTY, O68661, assumed command of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery from Robert C. Breckenridge, LTC, ARTY, O68448.

d. Normal S-1 activities were conducted during the period 1 February 1968 to 30 April 1968. Under the authority of GO185, HQ, USARPAC, 22 March 1968 (Effective 1 April 1968) this unit was redesignated as 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery and reorganized under MTOE 6-406G, PAC 1/68.

e. Personnel strength of the command on 30 April 1968 was:

UNIT	TOE AUTH			ASSIGNED		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
Headquarters Battery	15	2	102	11	0	111
A Battery	7	0	104	6	0	101
B Battery	7	0	104	6	0	100
C Battery	7	0	104	6	0	103
Service Battery	2	3	71	2	3	71
TOTALS:	38	5	485	31	3	486

f. Critical MOS shortages:

(1) Asst S-3, CPT, 2162 - 1

(2) LNO, CPT, 1193 - 2

(3) Mtr Off, CPT, 0600 - 1

(4) LT, 1193 - 3

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(5) Chief of Sections, E-6, 13B40 - 9

(6) Mtr SGT, E-5, 63B40 - 2

g. Personnel changes during this quarter included:

<u>GAINS:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>LOSSES:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	8	0	140		9	0	115

h. Casualties included:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Killed in Action	1
Wounded in Action	23
Missing in Action	0
Non Battle Dead	0
Non Battle Casualties	0

i. Pertinent medical service statistics included:

Total Patient visits	382
Admitted to hospital	13
Evacuated within country	2
Malaria cases	0

j. Awards and Decorations presented to members of this command included:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Silver Star	2
Legion of Merit	1
Bronze Star (Valor)	10
Bronze Star (Merit)	10
Bronze Star (Achievement)	4
Army Commendation Medal (Valor)	4
Army Commendation Medal (Merit)	6
Army Commendation Medal (Achievement)	2
Air Medal	6
Purple Heart	23

k. Judicial and Non-Judicial action of units included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ARTICLE 15</u>	<u>SUMMARY COURT</u>	<u>SPECIAL COURT</u>	<u>GENERAL COURT</u>
Headquarters Battery	2	0	0	0
A Battery	5	1	1	0
B Battery	1	0	0	0
C Battery	0	0	0	0
Service Battery	6	0	0	0
TOTALS:	14	1	1	0

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1. Reportable accidents included:

UNIT	VEHICLE	AIRCRAFT	PERSONNEL
Headquarters Battery	0	0	0
A Battery	0	0	0
B Battery	0	0	0
C Battery	1	0	0
Service Battery	1	0	0
TOTALS:	2	0	0

m. R & R for the reporting period included:

Kuala Lumpur - 3	Penang - 4
Australia - 16	Taipei - 12
Bangkok - 18	Tokyo - 3
Hawaii - 31	Singapore - 2
Hong Kong - 14	In-Country - 16
Manila - 3	

n. Safety Program: Safety talks continue to be a topic of commanders emphasis to the men of this battalion.

o. Commander's Notes: None

2. (C) Operations.

a. Deployment of the battalion and missions executed from the beginning of the reporting period:

(1) Headquarters Battery. Located at base camp (Bearcat) throughout the reporting period with mission of battalion support.

(2) Service Battery. Located at base camp (Bearcat) throughout the reporting period with mission of battalion support.

(3) Battery A.

Inclusive Dates	Location	Mission
1 - 16 February 1968	YS436975 (Blackhorse)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
16 February - 6 March 1968	YT127113	GS II FFA
6 March - 18 April 1968	YS161023 (Bearcat)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
18 April - 27 April 1968	YS127893 (FSPB Yak)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
* 23 April - 26 April 1968	YS301931	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
27 April 1968 to Present	YS168996 (Bearcat)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty

* 2 guns (split-battery) For added information see Battery A activities below.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,
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(4) Battery B.

<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Mission</u>
1 February - 6 March 1968	YS143814	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
* 27 February - 2 March 1968	YS111827	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
6 March - 1 April 1968	YS210931 (Binh Son)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
1 April - 5 April 1968	YS110827 (FSPB Red)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
5 April - 19 April 1968	YS210931 (Binh Son)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
** 12 April 1968 (only)	YS246918	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
19 April 1968 to Present	YT473098 (Xuan Loc)	GSR 18th ARVN Div Arty
** 26 April 1968 (only)	YT351274	GSR 18th ARVN Div Arty

* 3 guns (split-battery) For added information see Battery B activities below.
** Artillery Raid. For added information see Battery B activities below.

(5) Battery C.

<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Mission</u>
1 February - 19 April 1968	YT473098 (Xuan Loc)	GSR 18th ARVN Div Arty
19 April - 24 April 1968	YS210931 (Binh Son)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
24 April - 26 April 1968	YS301931	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty
26 April to Present	YS210931 (Binh Son)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty

b. Battery A activities - At the beginning of the reporting period Battery A was located at grid YS 436975 (Blackhorse) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. On 16 February 1968, Battery A displaced to grid YT 127113 (Fire Support Patrol Base Anderson) with the mission of General Support to II Field Force Artillery and priority of defensive fires to Battery B, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery. Battery A remained at this position until 6 March 1968 when it displaced to grid YS 161023 (Bearcat) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. On 18 April 1968, Battery A displaced to grid YS 127893 (FSPB Yak) with priority of fires to the 1st Royal Thai Volunteer Regiment. During the period 23 April to 26 April 1968, Battery A displaced two (2) howitzers to grid YS 301931 to join Battery C, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery for Operation Toan Thang. On 27 April 1968, Battery A displaced the entire unit to grid YS 168-996 (Bearcat) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. At the end of the reporting period, Battery A was positioned at Bearcat.

c. Battery B activities - At the beginning of the reporting period, Battery B was located at grid YS 143814 with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery with priority of fires to the 1st Royal Thai Volunteer Regiment. During the period 27 February to 2 March 1968, Battery B displaced three (3) of its howitzers to grid YS 111827 to provide greater coverage of the area, while the command post and the other three (3) howitzers remained at grid YS 143814. On 2 March 1968 the battery was reunited at grid YS 143814. On 6 March 1968, Battery B displaced the entire unit to grid YS

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210931 (Binh Son) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery with priority of fires to the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry. On 1 April 1968, Battery B moved to grid YS 110827 (Fire Support Patrol Base Red) with priority of fires to the 1st Royal Thai Volunteer Regiment. On 5 April 1968, Battery B returned to grid YS 210931 (Binh Son) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. On 12 April 1968, Battery B conducted an artillery raid at grid YS 246918 in support of the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry, and returned to Binh Son that same day. On 19 April 1968, Battery B moved to grid YT 473098 (Xuan Loc) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 18th ARVN Division Artillery. On 26 April 1968, Battery B conducted an artillery raid at grid YT 351274 in support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and returned to Xuan Loc the same day. At the end of the reporting period, Battery B was positioned at Xuan Loc with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 18th ARVN Division Artillery.

d. Battery C activities - At the beginning of the reporting period, Battery C was located at grid YT 473098 (Xuan Loc) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 18th ARVN Division Artillery. On 19 April 1968, Battery C displaced to grid YS 210931 (Binh Son) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. On 24 April 1968, Battery C, along with two (2) howitzers from Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to grid YS 301931 with priority of fires to the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry and the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry for Operation Toan Thang. On 26 April 1968, Battery C returned to grid YS 210931 (Binh Son) with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. At the end of the reporting period, Battery C was positioned at Binh Son.

e. Headquarters Battery and Service Battery activities - Headquarters and Service Batteries have been located at base camp Bearcat for the entire reporting period. Their mission has been that of battalion and firing battery support, and defense of base camp.

f. Ammunition expenditure and missions fired.

UNIT	NUMBER OF MISSIONS FIRED	AMMUNITION EXPENDED
Battery A	1,588	11,442
Battery B	2,553	16,532
Battery C	3,420	14,113
TOTALS:	7,561	42,087

3. (C) Training and Organization.

a. Mandatory training was conducted in the following subjects: Command Information, Character Guidance, CBR Refresher, Civil Affairs, Safeguarding Defense Information, Survival, Evasion and Escape, Military Justice, Safety, Defense Against Subversion and Espionage, and Armed Forces Censorship.

b. Integrated training was conducted in the following subjects: Physical Security, First Aid and Emergency Medical Care, Material Readiness, and Sentry Duty.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,
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c. All batteries of this battalion are continuing on the job training and cross training.

d. The following classes and tests were administered to selected personnel:

(1) The gunners tests for the 105mm Howitzer (Towed) as prescribed in FM 6-75 was given to all Executive Officers, Chiefs of Firing Battery, Section Chiefs, Gunners and Assistant Gunners of this battalion.

(2) Fire Direction Center personnel received a 60 hour program of gunnery classes which was concluded with the administration of a gunnery examination.

(3) Selected officers attended a one week course of instruction on the M18 Gun Direction Computer (FADAC) given at Phu Loi (23d Arty Gp Hq) by the Pacific FADAC Assistance Team.

(4) All Fire Direction Center personnel received special training on computation of gunnery data for use with the firing of the M444 round.

(5) Officer personnel and key NCO's received a block of instruction on Communications Security given by Army Security Agency personnel.

4. (U) Intelligence. Battalion air observers flew 142 missions during the reporting period for a total of 355½ hours. Type missions flown were convoy cover, reconnaissance, and aerial observed fire missions.

5. (U) Logistics.

a. Monthly deadline percentage: The battalion's REDCON for this reporting period was 88 09 03 giving it a C-1 rating of readiness. The monthly deadline percentage was 3%.

b. Ammunition resupply by rounds and caliber:

HE	38,560	Caliber - 105mm
Illum ...	2,315	
WP	1,214	
Smk	60	
TOTAL 42,149		= Approximately 1264.47 tons

c. Miles traveled by Service Battery ammunition trains for the reporting period was 13,430.

d. Approximate tonnage of resupply during reporting period:

Class I	-	200 tons
Class II	-	16 tons
Class III	-	48 tons
Class IV	-	85 tons

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30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,
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e. Number of air sorties flown - 142

f. Other pertinent information - Material readiness is continually being emphasized and is considered to meet the requirements of quality, quantity, and serviceability which allows this unit to accomplish its assigned mission.

6. (U) Other

a. Civic Actions

(1) Patients treated in the MEDCAP Program and villages visited included:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>PATIENTS TREATED</u>
15 Feb 68	Nouc Trong	48
25 Feb 68	Cau Xeo	17
12 Mar 68	Phouc Nguyen	71
14 Mar 68	Cau Xeo	82
21 Mar 68	Cau Xeo	113
22 Mar 68	Quan Tre	60
28 Mar 68	Thai Loc	96
3 Apr 68	Cau Xeo	130
4 Apr 68	Binh Lam/Xon Buon	55
11 Apr 68	Thai Thien	62
18 Apr 68	Si Phouc	82
25 Apr 68	An Xuan	49
TOTAL		865 Patients

Total dollar value of supplies - \$190.98

(2) Specific Civic Action - The battalion donated construction material to the Queen of Peace Orphanage, Bien Hoa Province. Material consisted of:

20 (12' - 16') 2X4 boards
40 (12' - 16') 1X6 boards
8 (12' - 16') 4X4 boards
20 Tin Sheets

(3) TMAP contributions - 17,180 VN\$

b. Communications. Normal communications activities were conducted during the reporting period.

SECTION II

LESSONS LEARNED: COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS, EVALUATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration. NONE

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

2. (U) Operations. NONE
3. (U) Training and Organization. NONE
4. (U) Intelligence:

ITEM: Utilization of 1:100,000 Maps

(1) OBSERVATION: The battalion aerial observers are now using 1:100,000 maps of the III CTZ area.

(2) EVALUATION: The standard 1:50,000 map proved too large to effectively be utilized in the back seat of an O1 aircraft. The battalion aerial observers were supplied with a 1:100,000 map on a trial basis. Their reports indicated that they found it easier to locate themselves when covering large areas for visual reconnaissance. The use of these maps presented no problem in plotting targets for artillery adjustment.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That units be encouraged to include 1:100,000 maps in their basic loads for use by aerial observers.

5. (U) Logistics:

ITEM: Requisitioning Through Supply Channels

(1) OBSERVATION: In the counterinsurgency environment of Vietnam an aggressive logistics program is a necessity.

(2) EVALUATION: It has been noted that it is not sufficient to simply submit requisitions and follow-ups and then wait for the supplies to come in, because the wait will be often longer than is desirable or necessary. With the vast quantities of supplies that are being shipped into Vietnam daily, supply depots have a continuous problem maintaining accurate stock records. The direct support supply activities also frequently lose track of items. Common discrepancies include the stock record card showing a zero balance on hand of an item that is, in fact, on hand (sometimes in large quantities) in the yard or warehouse, the stock card indicating that an item is on hand but it cannot be located, and, on many occasions, timely and accurate status not being received as a result of requisitions and follow-ups.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: (a) When discrepancies are found in depot or DSU supply activities it may be necessary to show the stock control and warehouse personnel that they do, in fact, have a particular item and to locate the item for them.

(b) When accurate status is not received on a critically needed item, it is best to hand-carry the requisition through depot supply to ascertain whether or not the item is available. It may sometimes be necessary to locate a required item in other than the normal supply support channels and assist in transferring the item to the normal channels.

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(c) Another action channel is available through the submission of the Periodic Logistics report. This report keeps the higher commander informed of those critically needed items that are still due-in, and it affords them the opportunity to assist. However, this will not suffice without aggressive action on the part of battery and battalion supply personnel.

(d) The chief recommendation is not to sit back and wait for supplies to come in. All possible sources must be sought out aggressively, and, at times, the support agencies must be assisted in locating the required supplies.

6. Other:

Communications

ITEM: Antenna AC-292

(1) OBSERVATION: The use of antenna AC-292 for field operations in Vietnam.

(2) EVALUATION: In the past, battalion headquarters has found it necessary to operate simultaneously from both a field position and base camp. It was found that there were not sufficient antennas AC-292 available to insure adequate radio communications at both positions. Three additional antennas AC-292 are needed to insure adequate radio communications at all times.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Additional antennas AC-292 should be authorized to insure adequate radio communications.

Wallace W. Noll

WALLACE W. NOLL
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

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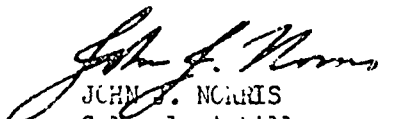
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AVGA-C (1 May 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96376

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVFB-FAC,
APO 96266
Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC,
APO 96266
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPDP-DT,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The Quarterly Operational Report, Lessons Learned, from the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery, is considered adequate.
2. (C) Reference Section II, para 4(3), Maps for Aerial Observers, the 54th Artillery Group concurs. Arrangements have been made by S2, 54th Artillery Group to draw and issue these maps to battalions.
3. (C) Reference Section II, para 5, Depot or DSU Supply Activity. The 54th Artillery Group concurs with the exceptions as noted. This headquarters has established a program to insure aggressive follow up on requisitions.
 - a. Allowing unit personnel access to warehouse and stock control facilities is impractical and would further disrupt the operational capability of the DSU's.
 - b. Current supply procedures allow for hand carry of requisitions for critical supply items. The 7th Bn, 9th Artillery supply personnel have been apprised of this procedure.
4. (C) Reference Section II, para 6(3), Communications. The 54th Artillery Group concurs. Units will be instructed to submit MTOE's for additional RC 292's as necessary.


JOHN J. NORRIS
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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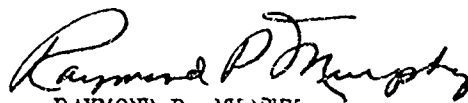
AVFB-FAC (1 May 68) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65)

DA, HQ, II FROCEV Artillery, APO 96266 23 MAY 1968

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery (UIC: FIJA) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.
2. (U) Reference Section II, paragraph 4(3), Maps for Aerial Observers and Section II, paragraph 6(3), Communications. Concur.
3. (C) Reference Section II, paragraph 5, Requisitioning Through Supply Channels. Concur with 1st Indorsement. Although not a new "Lesson Learned", aggressive follow-up action through proper logistics channels continues to be essential and is so reflected in current SOPs.


RAYMOND P. MURPHY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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AVFBC-RE-H (30 Apr 68) 3rd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 7 JUN 1968

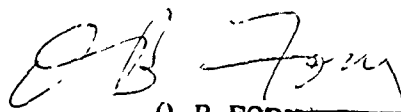
THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375
Commander, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded.

2. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report of Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery and concurs with it, with the exception of para 5, Section II. This headquarters considers the approach discussed in para 3, 1st Indorsement more appropriate to aggressive follow-up action on requisitions.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


O. B. FORY
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (30 Apr 68) 4th Ind (U) CPT Arnold/hga/LBN 4485
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April
1968, Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 963751 0 JUN 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery, as indorsed.

2. Concur with report as submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. S. Nakatsukasa
C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:
HQ, II FFORCEV
HQ, 7th Bn, 9th Arty

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GPOP-DT (30 Apr 68) (U) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 7th Bn 9th Arty for Period Ending
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

20 JUN 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

Carlson

SHORT
L1, AGC
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author) OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 2031		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Confidential	
		2b. GROUP 4	
3. REPORT TITLE Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Hqs, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery (U)			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates) Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb - 30 Apr 68			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery			
6. REPORT DATE 30 April 1968		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 16	7b. NO. OF REFS
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 682043	
b. PROJECT NO. N/A		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
c.			
d.			
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES N/A		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT			

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DD FORM 1473
1 NOV 65

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